

REMARKS

Claims 13-18 have been withdrawn. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended. Claims 19-21 have been added. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present amendment. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the new and amended claims. Claims 10-12 and 19-21 are pending in the application. Applicant also respectfully request entry of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of informalities related to missing section headings in the specification. The specification has been amended to address these informalities, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,752,562 (hereinafter "Mills"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Mills does not anticipate claims 10-12.

Mills discloses a quick install positive lock pin for locking a plurality of objects together. Mills utilizes an axle/shaft 86 which connects two locking elements to one another and to a plunger 16, all of them pivotally hinged together. See col. 4, lines 28-40 and lines 57-59; Fig. 1-3. In contrast, the

locking pin of the present invention omits the use of an axis. See paragraph [0007]. Therefore, the two locking elements 2, 3 of the present invention are not connected to each other via an axle or a shaft, and further are not connected to the pushrod 8. See paragraphs [0040] and [0073]. Unlike Mills, the two locking elements 2, 3 may touch one another without being linked or coupled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Mills does not anticipate claims 10-12 and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by German Patent DE 3,223,302 (hereinafter "Leitner"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Leitner does not anticipate claims 10-12.

Leitner discloses a securing bolt which can be inserted into through holes in components, can be locked in its inserted position such that it cannot be pulled out, and can be pulled out again after unlocking. Leitner utilizes an axle/shaft 11 which connects two locking elements to one another and to a plunger 16, all of them pivotally hinged together. See Fig. 5; abstract, line 9 (English translation). In contrast, the locking pin of the present invention omits the use of an axis. See paragraph [0007]. Therefore, the two locking elements 2, 3 of the present invention are not connected to each other via an

Applicant: Rudolf Kienzler  
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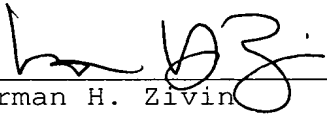
axle or a shaft, and further are not connected to the pushrod 8. See paragraphs [0040] and [0073]. Unlike Leitner, the two locking elements 2, 3 may touch one another without being linked or coupled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Leitner does not anticipate claims 10-12 and respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In summary, Applicant submits that all of the objections and rejections stated in the Office Action have been addressed and overcome, and that the application now is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests notice to this effect at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

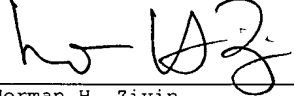
No fee, other than the \$60 fee for a one-month extension of time, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required in connection with the filing of this amendment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 2, 2006

  
Norman H. Zivin  
(Reg. No. 25,385)  
Cooper & Dunham LLP  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
(212) 278-0400  
Attorney for Applicant

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 3/2/06  
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